

hearing what was going on. LB 453 is my personal priority bill. It is a bill that emanated from lots of conversations and discussions with people that are working in the area of telecommunications. Probably not surprisingly to members of the body, my entree to this issue came through the education technology, but I'm finding that again, quite obviously, there's a technology we're talking about is not limited to information dealing with education, but also includes the fields of health, rural development, business, personal information, almost anything that you might need. I had sent an article to your office some time ago and I've redistributed that on the floor. It's an article out of USA Today, which means that even people like me can read it and usually understand it, dealing with this whole concept of the fiber-optics network, the superhighway of information, what is going on in the whole country as it relates to this technology and it is a good article. I would urge you to read it. This is a topic of conversation that I find to be somewhat difficult to understand from time to time and this really puts it in lay persons terms I believe. The area of technology, telecommunications, is changing our lives. I would ask you to hark back to not that many years ago, whenever you would leave your home to travel you would have to find a time when you could get to the bank, the bank was probably open from nine until three in the afternoon, go down, buy traveler's checks so that you could have money to spend when you left your home community and your local check may no longer be any good. Today when I travel out of the state, I rarely think of worrying about getting the funds because we have credit cards that are good anyplace in the country. We have ATMs in the airport as you leave, as you get off the airplane, in your local hotel where you're staying, really has changed our lives and that's just one small impact. The things that are coming down the road in area of telecommunications are going to change your life even more radically. Doug Gale, in front of the Revenue Committee the other day, made the statement that a family that connects to the Internet network, in effect, has a personal library in their home equivalent to that of the Library of Congress, because simply by dialing up on a modem, accessing information, the information that in our day and age we had to travel to libraries to connect to, is there in the home. A tremendous number of things are happening in Nebraska. Nebraska in many ways is taking the lead in this new superhighway concept through our Department of Administrative Services and, by the way, that's why, and Senator Bernard-Stevens is having some questions here as to why it was going in to DAS instead of Policy